Mr Hilton and the Knapford Billboard

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Summary: Mr Hilton paints a billboard for Knapford Station, but doesn't know what to paint. (Request for tate310)

Mr Hilton and the Knapford Billboard

(It is a beautiful sunny day on Sodor. Mr Hilton is at Knapford, dressed in overalls, and is standing by a large canvas, wondering what to paint. He looks up and waves.)

Mr Hilton: Oh hello! I'm Mr Hilton, one of the engine drivers on Sodor. Sir Topham Hatt has assigned me to paint a new billboard! Only, I don't know what to paint. He told me I could do anything, so long as it was to do with Sodor and the railway.

(He picks up a large paintbrush and yields it carefully.)

Mr Hilton: When you want to paint something, you should always use a paintbrush. I'm using a paintbrush to paint the billboard of Knapford Station.

_(He looks around, wondering what to paint. Soon he sees an Express coach in a siding.) _

Mr Hilton: Well, I suppose this railway does have an 'express' service. Maybe I'll paint that.

(But as he is about to paint, he shakes his head.)

Mr Hilton: No, I don't think so. I don't think it captures the essence of the industry.

(Next, he sees some workmen on their coffee break.)

Mr Hilton: Well, I could have some workmen on the billboard, and fit in the railway theme somehow... no, I don't like that

either.

(Thirdly, he sees Gordon waiting for his afternoon passengers.)

Mr Hilton: An engine would cut the billboard I think. How about I do Gordon?

(But as he reaches for the blue paint, he shakes his head.)

Mr Hilton: No he's not much for anything other than the Express. I need another idea!

(He sits down, upset. Then he hears James whistle loudly.)

James: I've brought coal for the station!

Stationmaster: (_hurrying out from his office)._Yes, thank you James! You are very helpful indeed- and Really Useful.

_(James beams. Mr Hilton has an idea.) _

Mr Hilton: I know! How about I do James? He's the perfect engine for the billboard!

(Mr Hilton grabs his red paint, and sets to work. Several hours later, he finishes.)

Mr Hilton: _(yawns)_ I'm exhausted.

(He covers the billboard, and leaves the station to rest for a while. A few hours later, whilst at home, he receives a phone call. It is Sir Topham Hatt.)

Mr Hilton: You liked it sir? (_Incoherent speech heard.)_Yes thank you sir. It took me a while to come up with the idea, but it came in blazing red and covered in the dusts of industry.

End
file.